

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for pretreatment of a quantity of fly ash for use in a cementitious composition containing an air entrainment agent. An effective amount of an aromatic carboxylic acid or its salts is added to the fly ash to satiate unburned carbon in the ash. The treatment with the aromatic carboxylic acid (or hydroxy substituted aromatic carboxylic acid or its salts) does not significantly promote or retard the air entrainment functions of the air entrainment agent.